

EVANGELINE

TM



WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

It is the 23rd century, and many things have changed... and many things remain the same. Humans have colonized the stars... and they still persecute each other for religious beliefs. Enter **Evangeline**: executioner and saviour. She has a special mission... and friends in very high places.

She is an expert at hand-to-hand combat and is proficient with a wide variety of weapons; but she has a special affinity for the old-fashioned bow and arrow.

Her special mission: to protect and avenge victims of religious persecution throughout the galaxy.

And she's already had a lot of experience. She avenged the senseless slaughter of an orphanage full of innocent children and nuns on Mars and dispatched a gang of interstellar hijackers who mistook her for a defenseless countess.

Her friends: the mysterious **Cardinal Szn**, the high-ranking Vatican official who recruited Evangeline; and **Jonny Six**, a professional thief.

Who is Evangeline? She's a nun — a very *dangerous* nun.

LAST ISSUE: A missionary poisons his flock, an English lord is torched, an assassin is possessed — everywhere clergy and friends of the Church are going mad or dying. All these incidents have only one link, the orbiting health spa, **Wonderstar**. Evangeline has been sent by Szn to investigate and now realizes that she, too, is being watched...



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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

FIRST
COMICS

"HIS NAME WAS VACLAV. HE WAS KING OF BOHEMIA FROM 922 A.D. UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 929. HIS REIGN WAS A HAPPY ONE."



"ALL THE MORE HAPPY FOR THE BIRTH OF A SON, A SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE."



"BUT THAT DISPLACED BOLESNAV, VACLAV'S BROTHER, AS THE SUCCESSOR. AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE THIS DID NOT EASE THE TENSIONS OF SIBLING RIVALRY."

"AND SO ON SEPTEMBER 20, 929, BOLESNAV SLEW HIS BROTHER WHILE ON THE WAY TO A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL."



"WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR SUBJECT FOR TODAY, GENTLEMEN."

"I OFFER FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION..."



"THE HEAD OF KING VACLAV. ALSO KNOWN AS SAINT WENCESLAUS, MARTYR AND PATRON SAINT OF BOHEMIA."

THE RESURRECTORS

NOW--
WHO'LL
START THE
BIDDING?



STORY BY:
CHARLES DIXON

PENCILS BY:
CARA TERENO

INKS BY:
RICARDO VILLAGRÁN

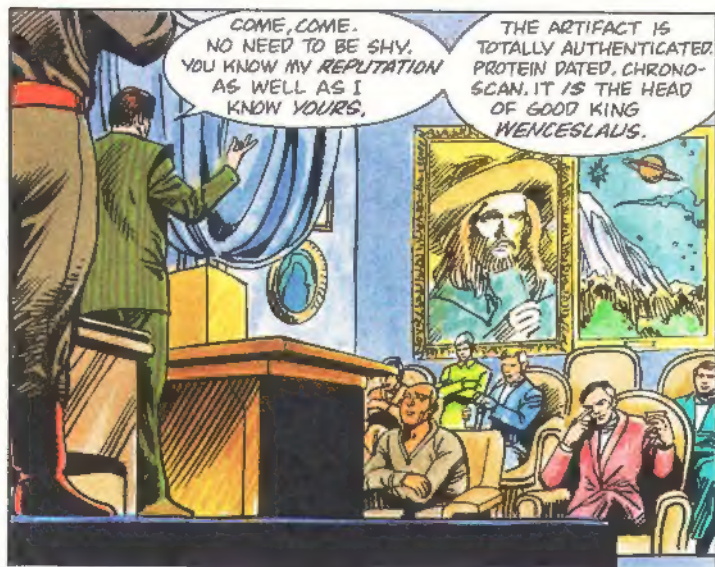
LETTERS BY:
GARY FIELDS

COLORS BY:
TOM McCRAW

EDITED BY:
LAUREL FITCH

EVANGELINE™

A SECRET AUCTION IN
LONDON, ENGLAND IN THE
CENTURY AFTER NEXT.



COME, COME.
NO NEED TO BE SHY.
YOU KNOW MY REPUTATION
AS WELL AS I
KNOW YOURS.

THE ARTIFACT IS
TOTALLY AUTHENTICATED.
PROTEIN DATED, CHRONO-
SCAN. IT IS THE HEAD
OF GOOD KING
WENCESLAUS.



WE ALL KNOW THE
MARKET FOR RELIGIOUS
ARTIFACTS IS A
COMPETITIVE
ONE.

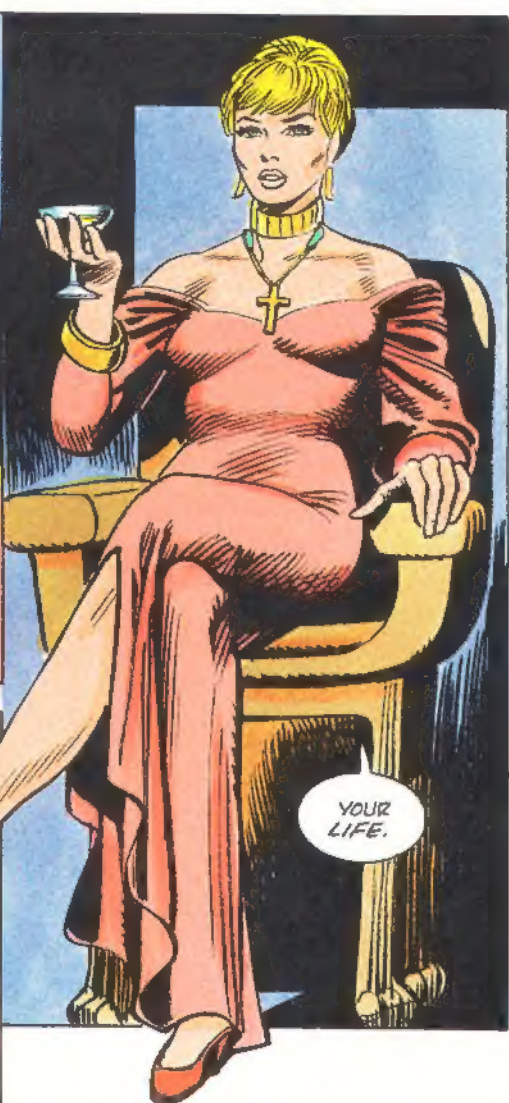
WHO WILL
BID FIRST?



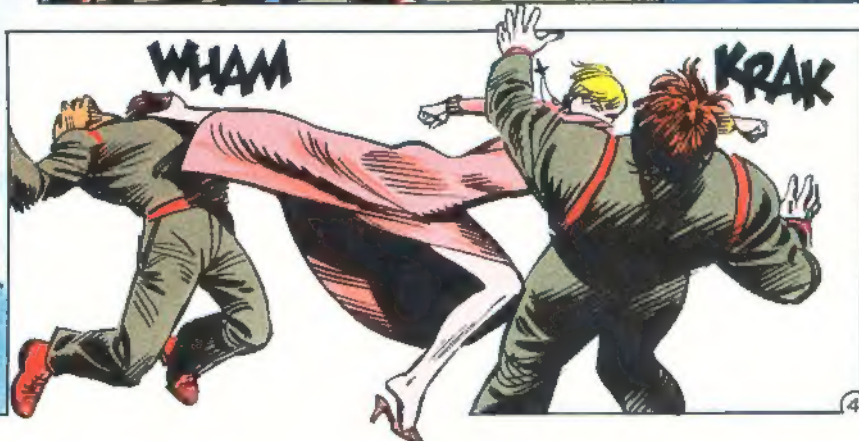
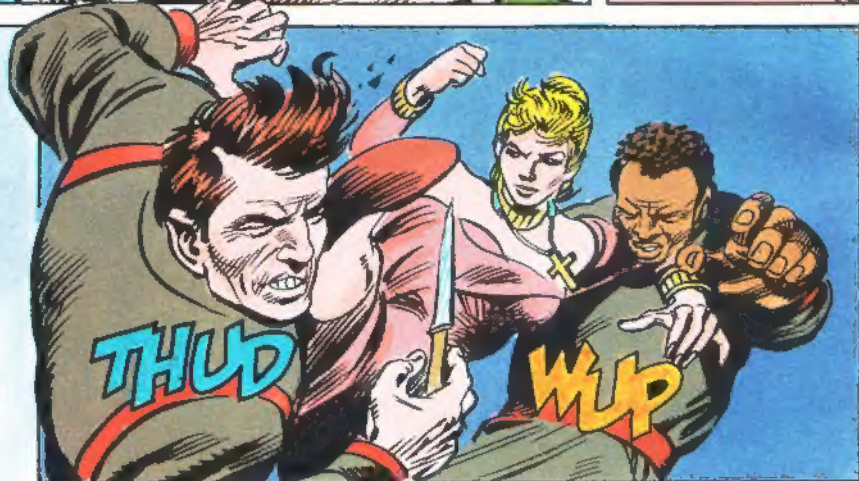
I WILL.
I MEAN TO
HAVE THIS
ARTIFACT.

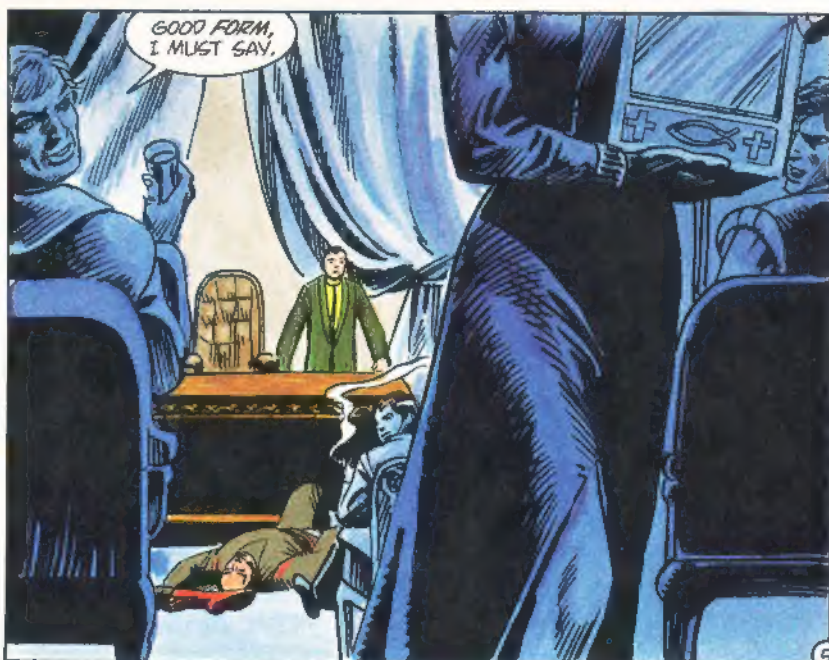


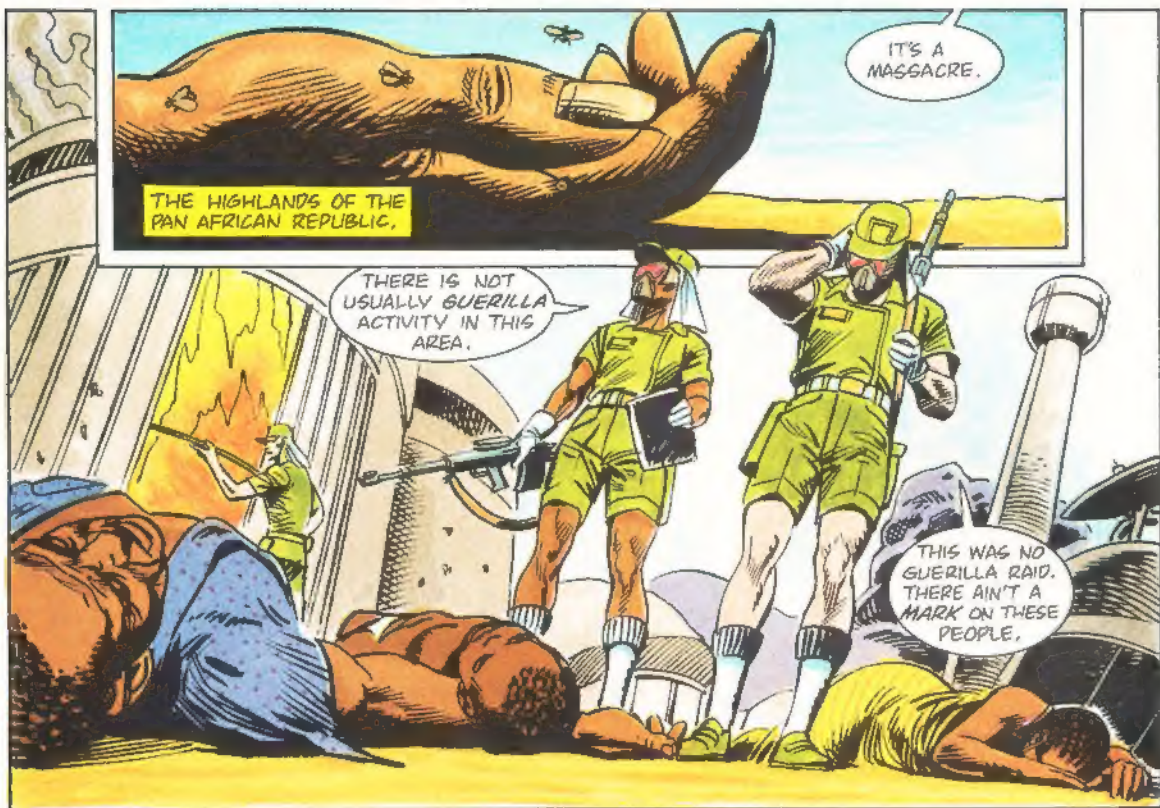
WELL, THEN...
...HOW MUCH WILL YOU
BID, YOUNG LADY?



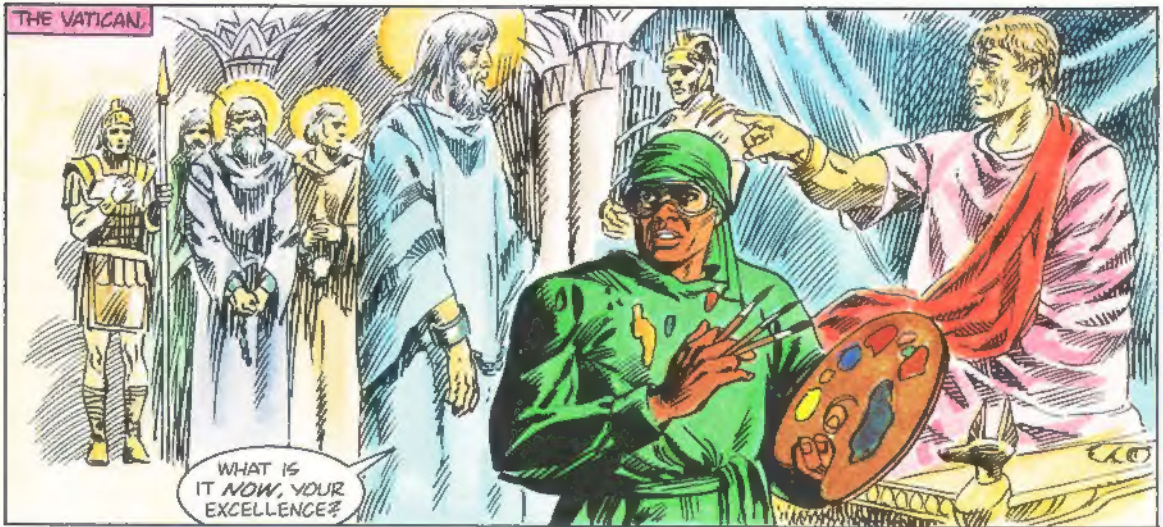
YOUR
LIFE.







THE VATICAN.



WHAT IS
IT NOW, YOUR
EXCELLENCE?

I NOTE A
TRACE OF FEAR
IN SAINT ELIAS'S
EYES. IT SHOULD
NOT BE
THERE.



OF COURSE
IT SHOULD BE
THERE. THE MAN IS
ABOUT TO BE TORTURED
THEN BURNED TO DEATH--
AND HE KNOWS IT.

NO, MR. WALTERS. ELIAS IS
ABOUT TO BE LIFTED UP AS A
MARTYR. HE KNOWS THAT. IT
GIVES HIM COURAGE. NOW
CHANGE THE PAINTING.

YES, YOUR
EXCELLENCE.

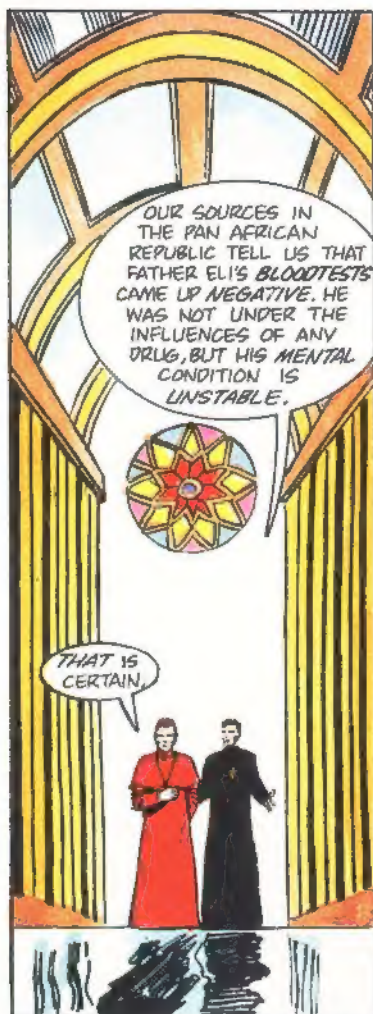


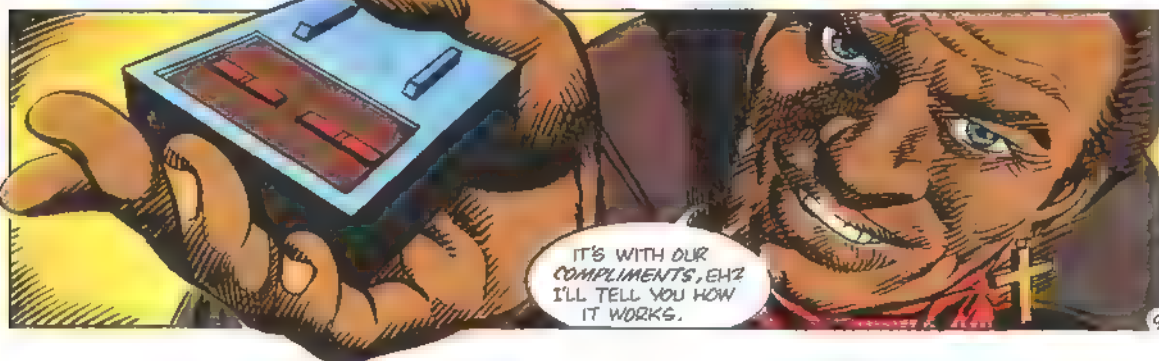
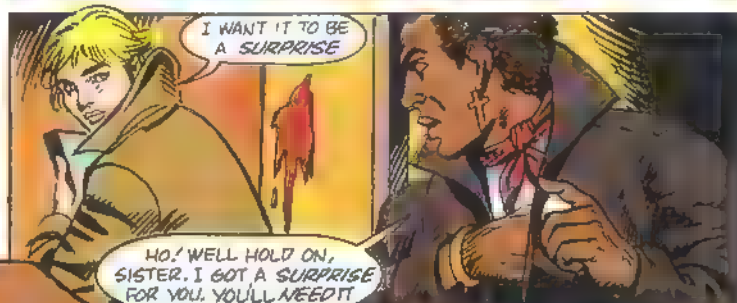
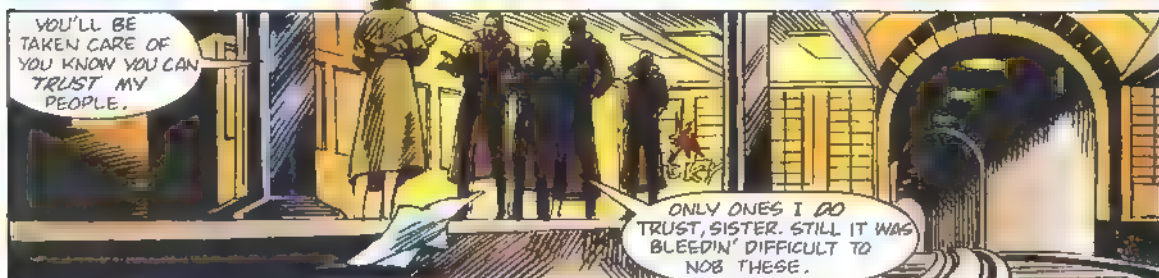
CARDINAL SZN'Z
WE HAVE THE INFORMATION
YOU REQUESTED.

THANK YOU, BROTHER
FIORE. YOU MAY PROCEED,
MR. WALTERS.

"PROCEED." HMPH. HOW CAN
I WORK WITH THAT POMPUS ASS
HANGING OVER MY SHOULDER
ALL DAY?

"PROCEED."





"GETTIN' INTO THE PLACE
IS A KIDDY GAME .."

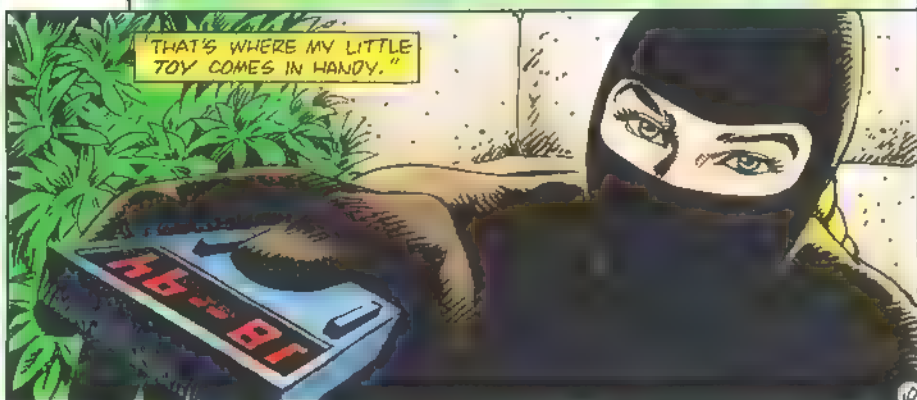
"...BUT WHEN YOU'RE
OVER THE WALL--
THAT'S WHEN YOU
GOT TROUBLES,
SISTER."

"MOST OF THESE
RICH COBBERS GOT
DOGS. ROBOT DOGS
REAL SCARY REAL
MEAN."

"CAN'T SHOOT 'EM
THESE DOGGIES ARE
MADE OF ALUMINUM
AND TEFLON COATED
STEEL"

"AND YOU DAMN
SURE CAN'T OUTFRAN
THE BASTARDS."

"THAT'S WHERE MY LITTLE
TOY COMES IN HANDY."

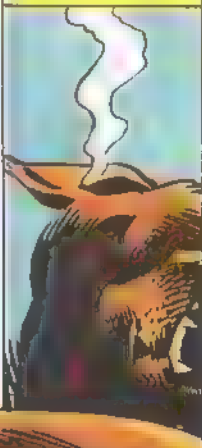


"IT EMITS AN ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC PULSE THAT
FUSES THEIR LITTLE
PUPPY BRAINS.



MAKES EM GO
ALL WONKY.

"THEN YOU GOT
A CLEAR PATH
TO THE MANOR.



"LESS OF COURSE,
ONE OF THE DOGGIES
IS REAL.

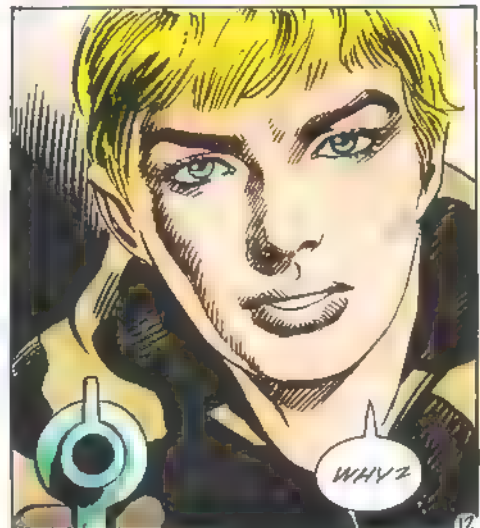
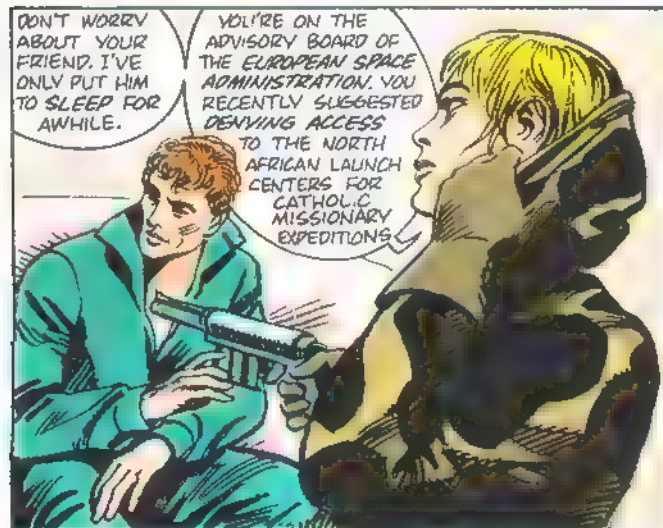
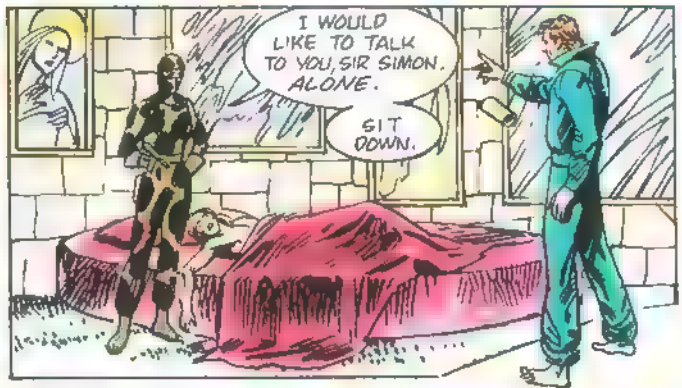
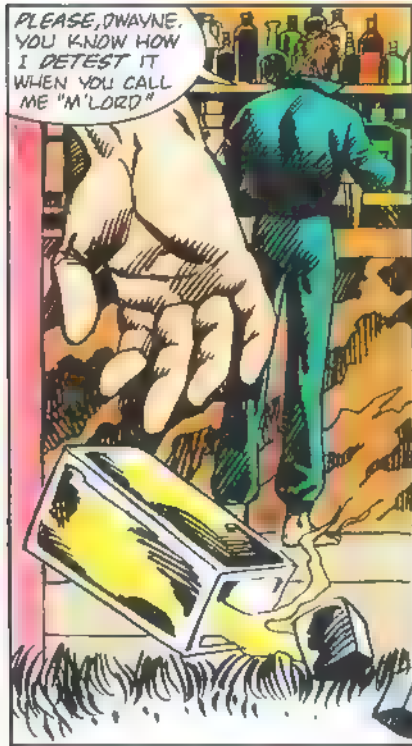
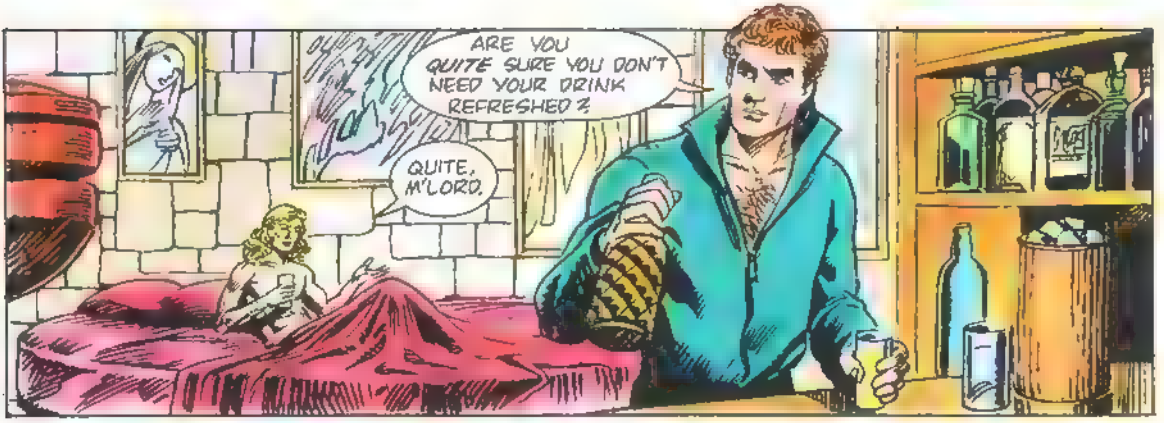


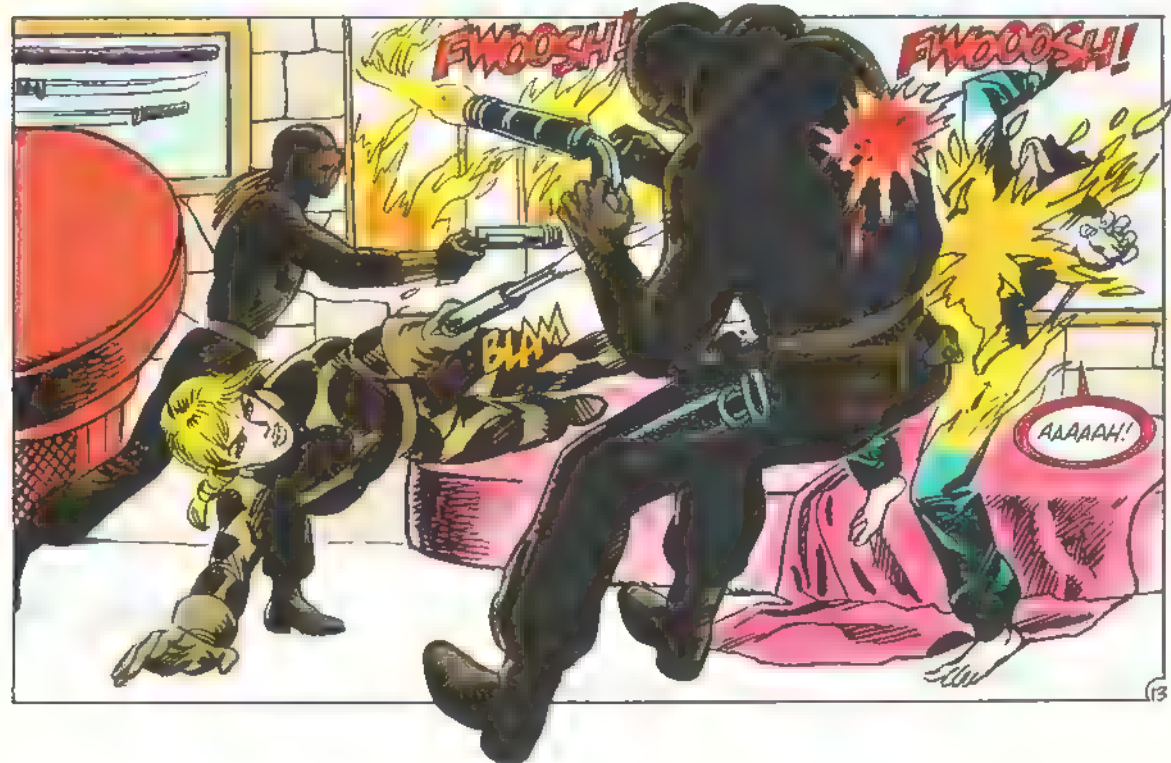
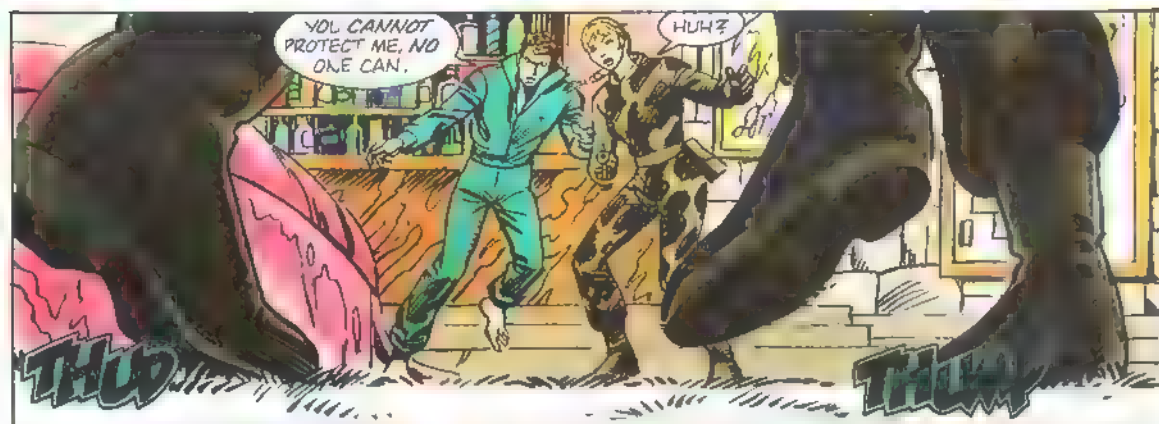
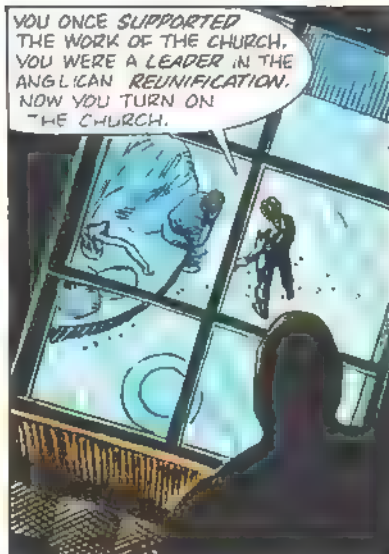
"THEY DO THAT
SOMETIMES.

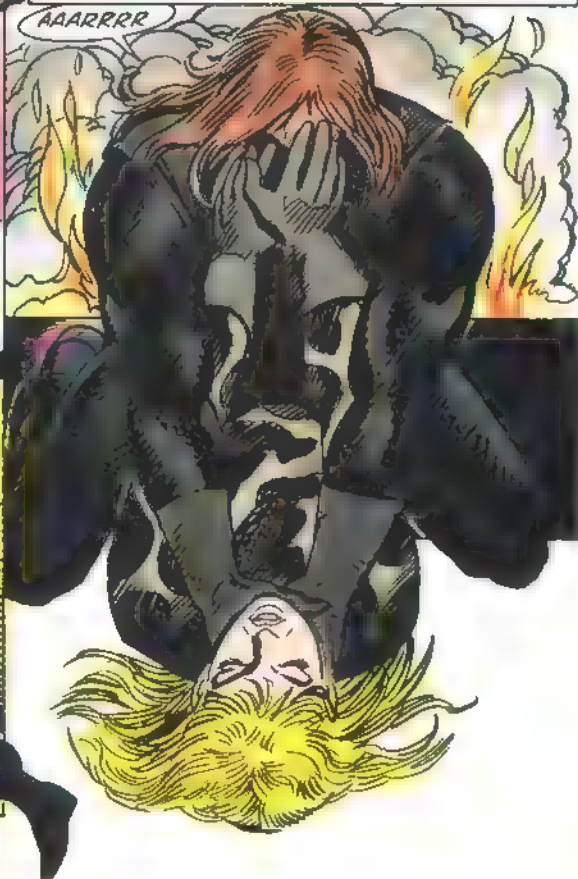
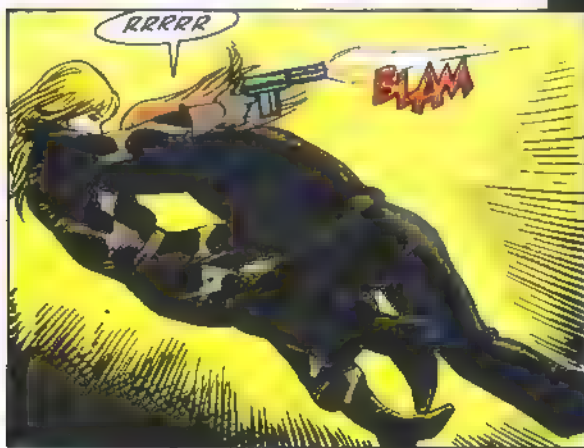
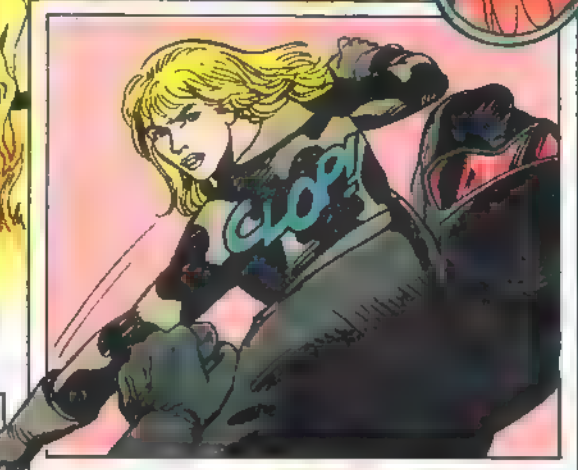
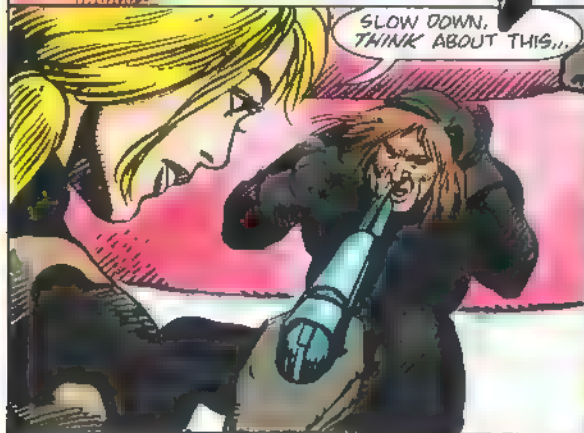
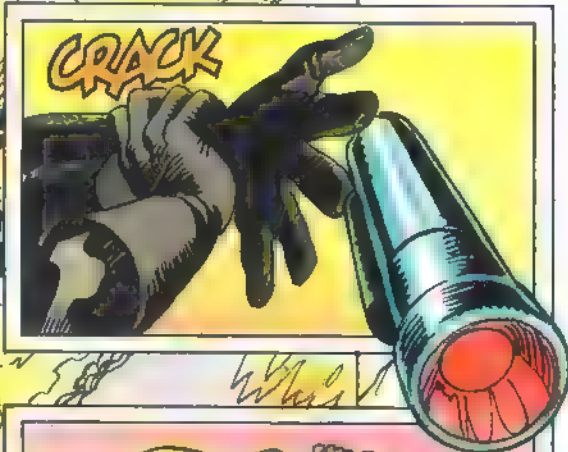
"JUST IN CASE,
Y'KNOW.

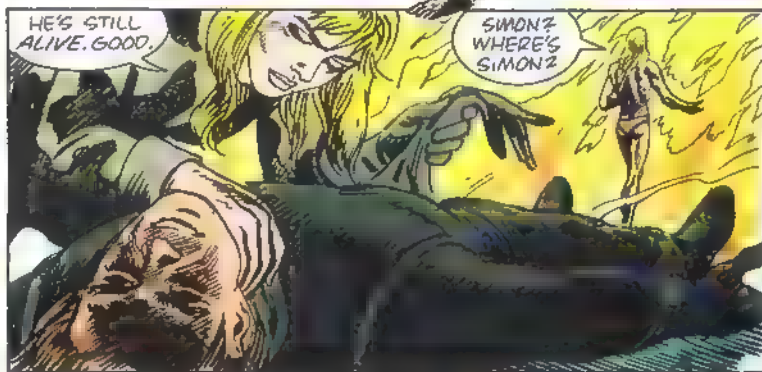
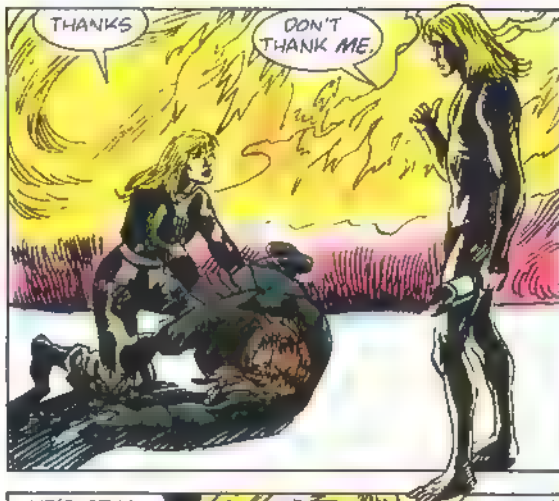
"THESE HIGH ROLLIN'
TYPES IS SO FADDISH."





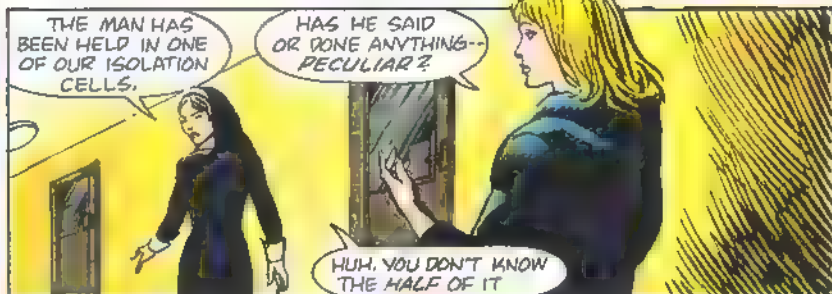








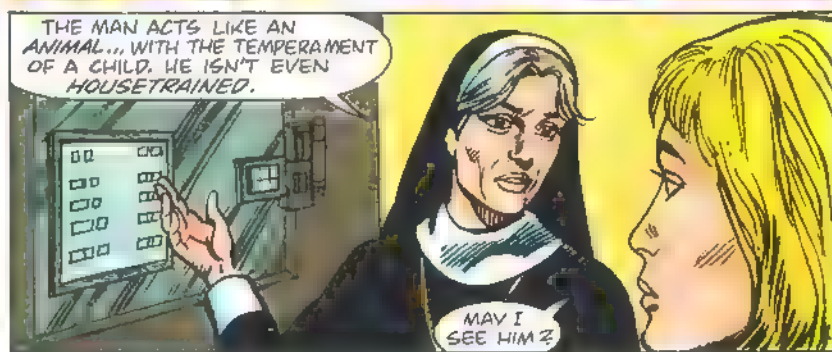
ST. BALTHILDIS, A
NUNNERY HIGH IN
THE SWISS ALPS.
A WEEK LATER...



THE MAN HAS
BEEN HELD IN ONE
OF OUR ISOLATION
CELLS.

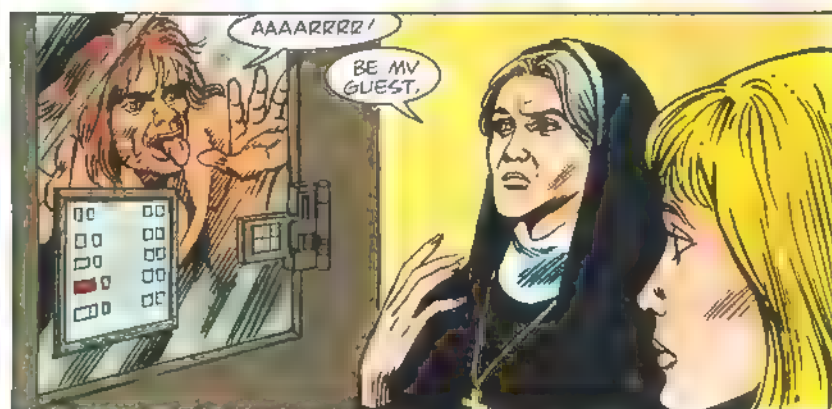
HAS HE SAID
OR DONE ANYTHING--
PECULIAR?

HUH, YOU DON'T KNOW
THE HALF OF IT



THE MAN ACTS LIKE AN
ANIMAL... WITH THE TEMPERAMENT
OF A CHILD. HE ISN'T EVEN
HOUSETRAINED.

MAY I
SEE HIM?



AAAAARRRR!

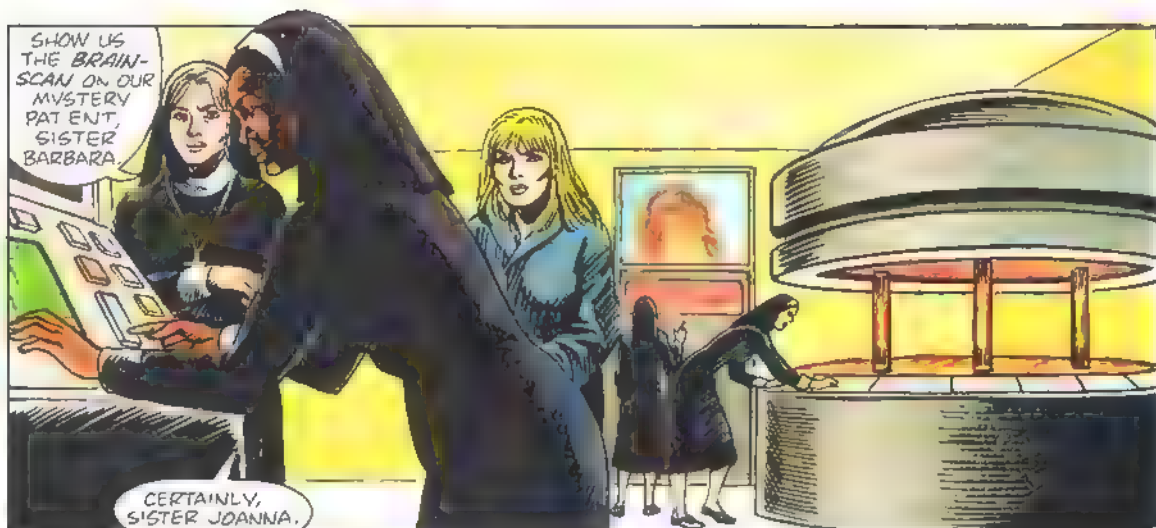
BE MY
GUEST.



AAAAARRRR!!

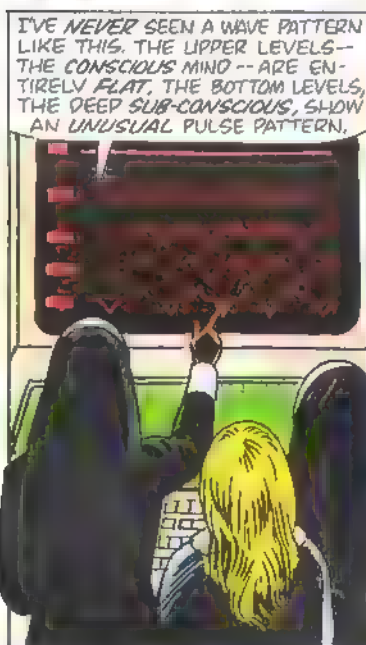
EVERY ONE
AVAILABLE, COME
WITH ME

IS HE INSANE
OR RETARDED? WHAT
TESTS HAVE YOU
RUN ON HIM?

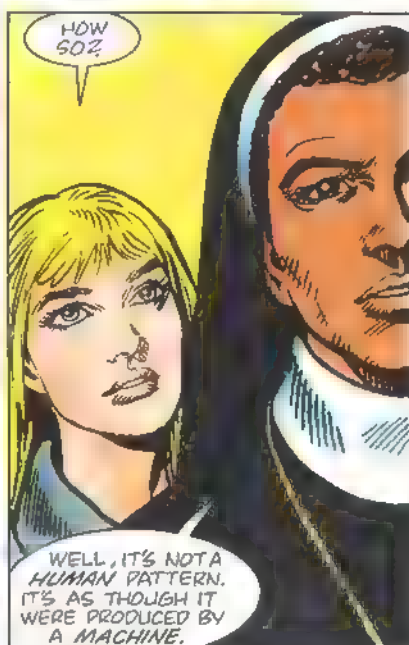


SHOW US THE BRAIN-SCAN ON OUR MYSTERY PATIENT, SISTER BARBARA.

CERTAINLY, SISTER JOANNA.



I'VE NEVER SEEN A WAVE PATTERN LIKE THIS. THE UPPER LEVELS-- THE CONSCIOUS MIND-- ARE ENTIRELY FLAT. THE BOTTOM LEVELS, THE DEEP SUB-CONSCIOUS, SHOW AN UNUSUAL PULSE PATTERN.



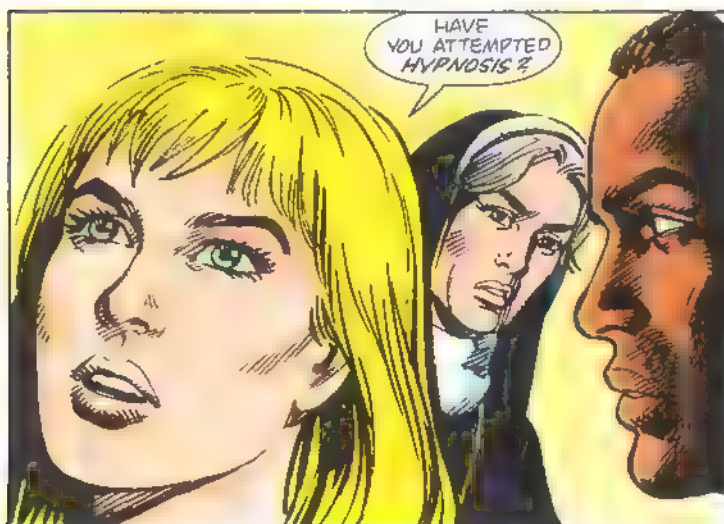
HOW SO?

WELL, IT'S NOT A HUMAN PATTERN. IT'S AS THOUGH IT WERE PRODUCED BY A MACHINE.



HAVE YOU TRIED TO REACH HIM? TO COMMUNICATE?

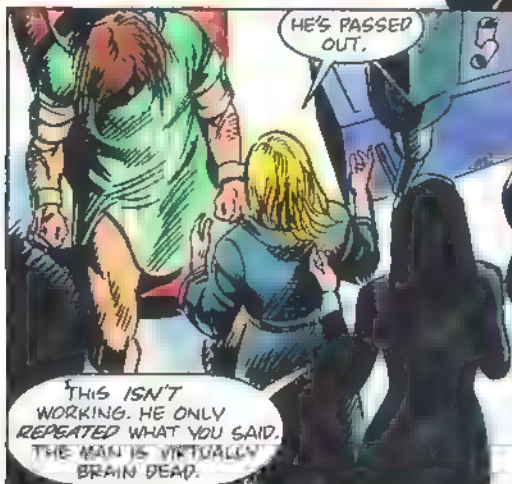
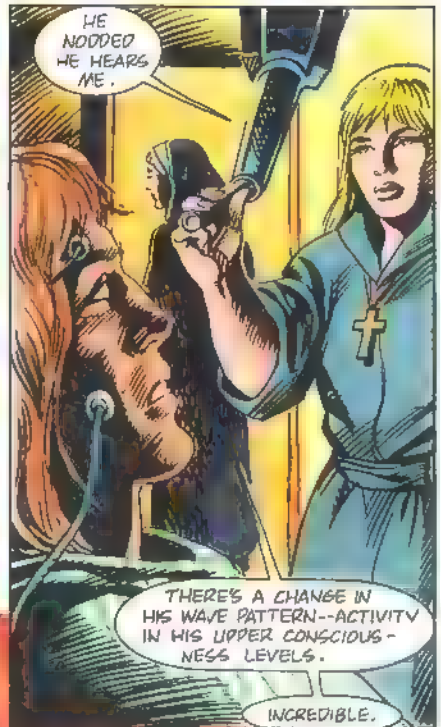
YOU CAN SEE THAT HE HAS ALMOST ZERO INTELLECT. HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE WITH A BRAIN LIKE THAT?

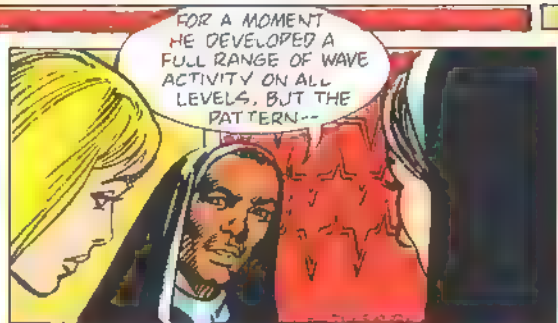


HAVE YOU ATTEMPTED HYPNOSIS?

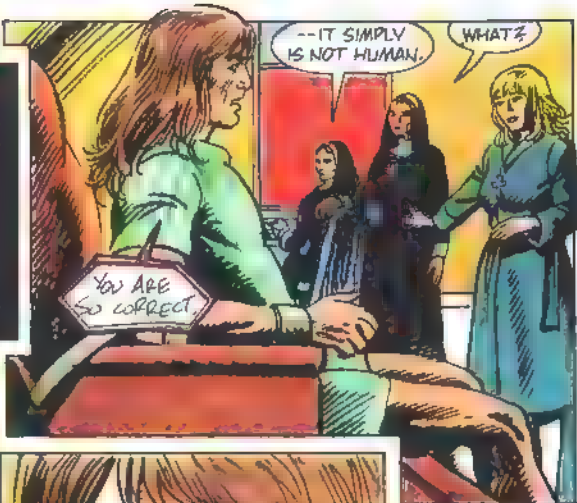


FOLLOW THE LIGHT...





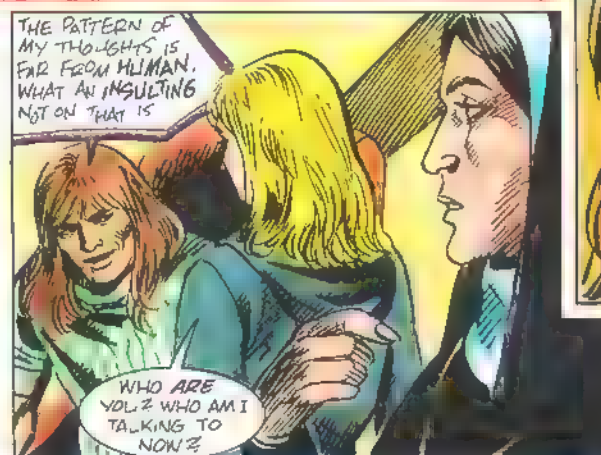
FOR A MOMENT
HE DEVELOPED A
FULL RANGE OF WAVE
ACTIVITY ON ALL
LEVELS, BUT THE
PATTERN--



--IT SIMPLY
IS NOT HUMAN.

WHAT?

YOU ARE
SO CORRECT.



THE PATTERN OF
MY THOUGHTS IS
FAR FROM HUMAN.
WHAT AN INSULTING
NOT ON THAT IS

WHO ARE
YOU? WHO AM I
TALKING TO
NOW?



YOU KNOW ME NOT.
MY NAME IS FAMILIAR
BUT NOT MY VISAGE. I
HAVE NO FACE TO CALL
MY OWN. I USE WHAT-
EVER FACE PLEASES
ME

ABORT, RETRY, IGNORE?
ABORT, RETRY, IGNORE?
ABORT, RETRY, IGNORE?
ABORT, RETRY, IGNORE?
ABORT, RETRY, IGNORE?



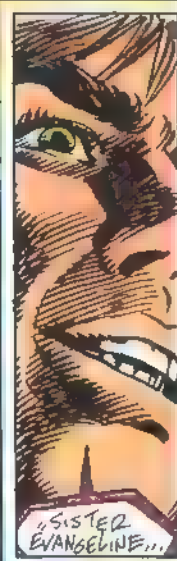
MY SCANNER
CAN'T KEEP UP
WITH THE
CHANGES.

GOD
HELP
US

NONSENSE. THERE
IS A SCIENTIFIC REASON
FOR THIS.

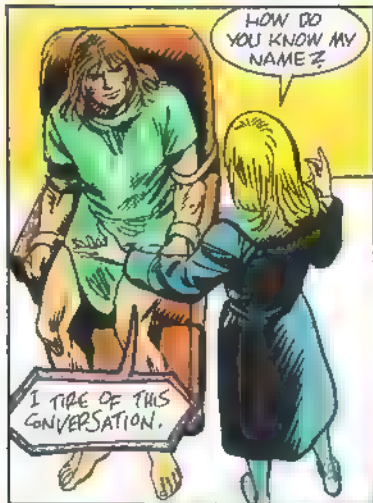


I AM NOT
KNOWN TO YOU
BUT YOU ARE
KNOWN TO
ME...



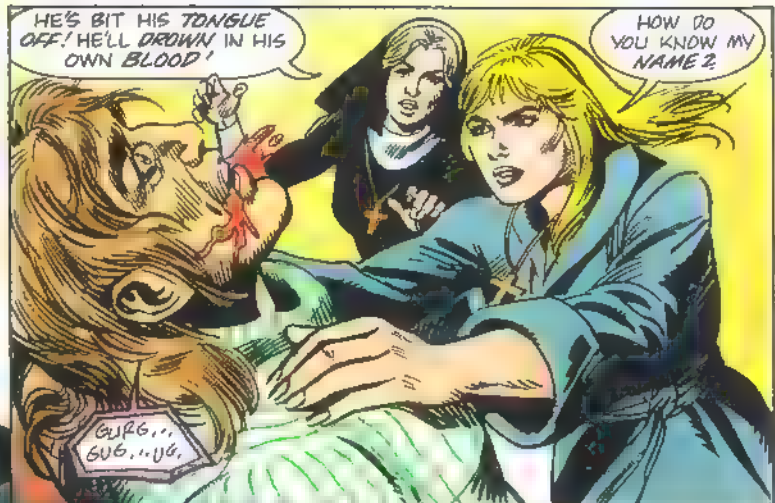
"SISTER
EVANGELINE..."

HE IS
POSSESSED.



HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I TIRE OF THIS CONVERSATION.



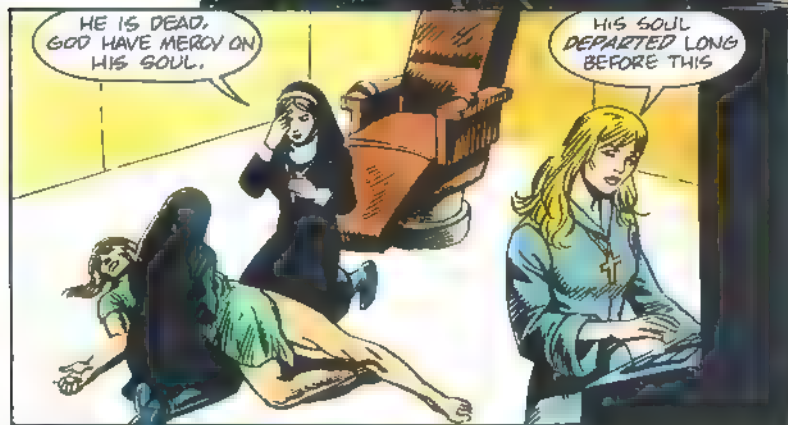
HE'S BIT HIS TONGUE OFF! HE'LL DROWN IN HIS OWN BLOOD!

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

GURG... SUB...UG.

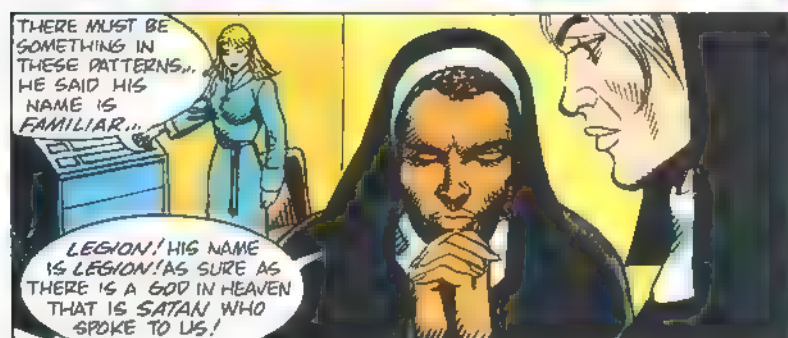


LORD, HELP ME SAVE HIM!



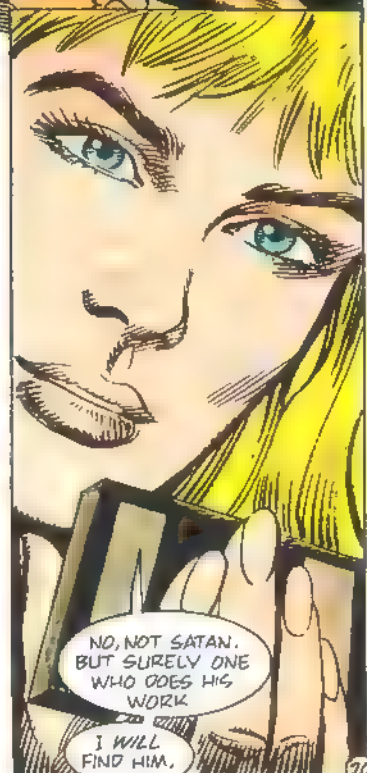
HE IS DEAD. GOD HAVE MERCY ON HIS SOUL.

HIS SOUL DEPARTED LONG BEFORE THIS



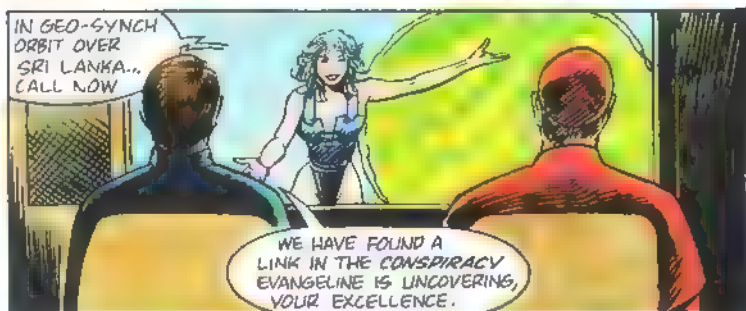
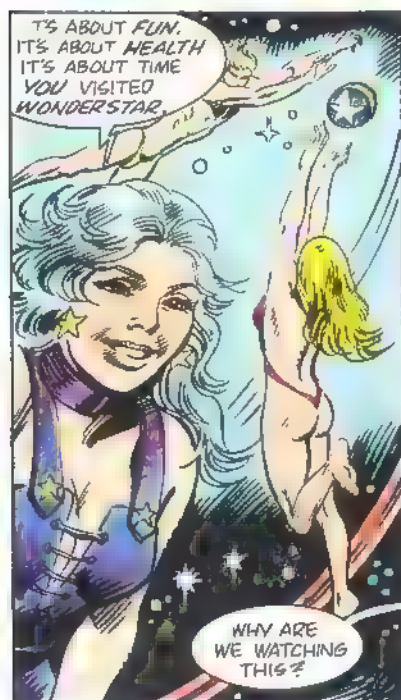
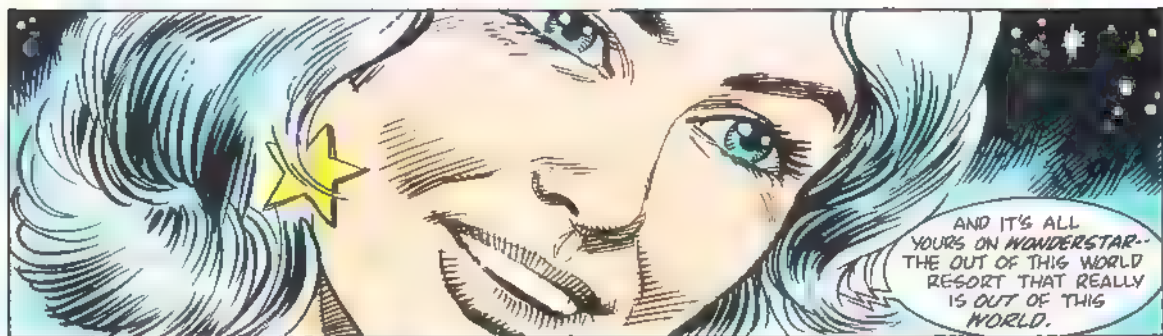
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THESE PATTERNS.. HE SAID HIS NAME IS FAMILIAR..

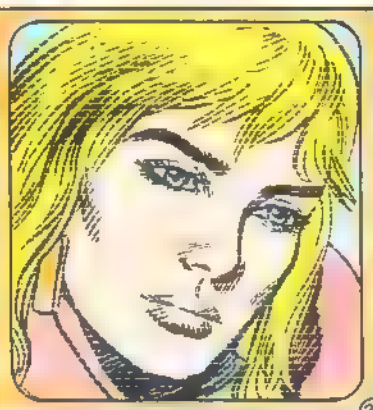
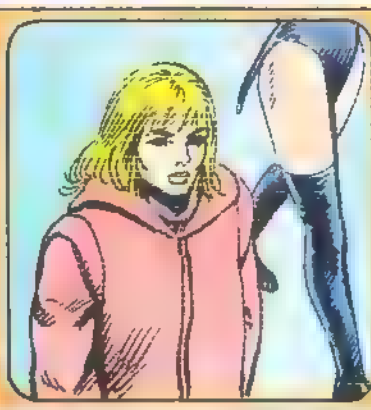
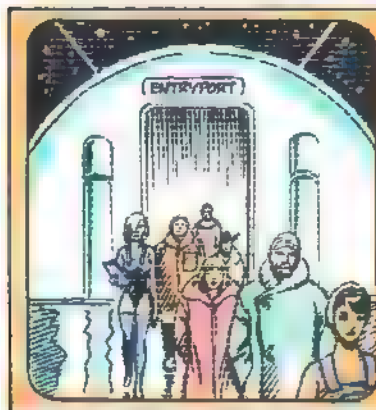
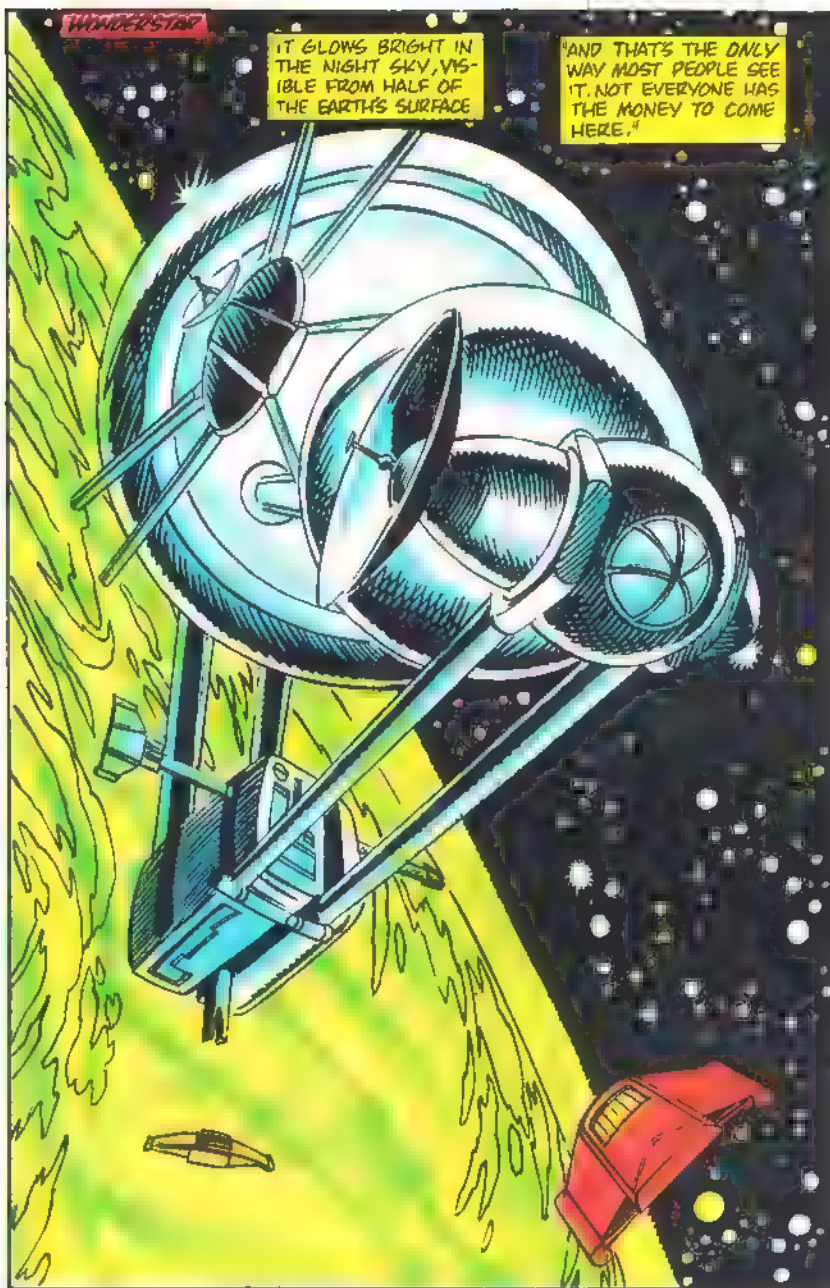
LEGION! HIS NAME IS LEGION! AS SURE AS THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN THAT IS SATAN WHO SPOKE TO US!

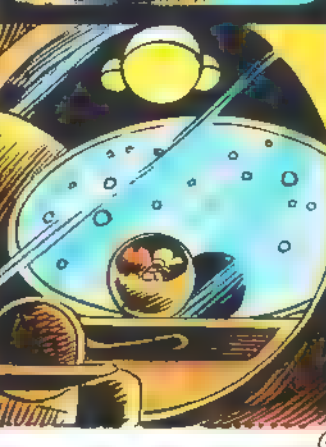
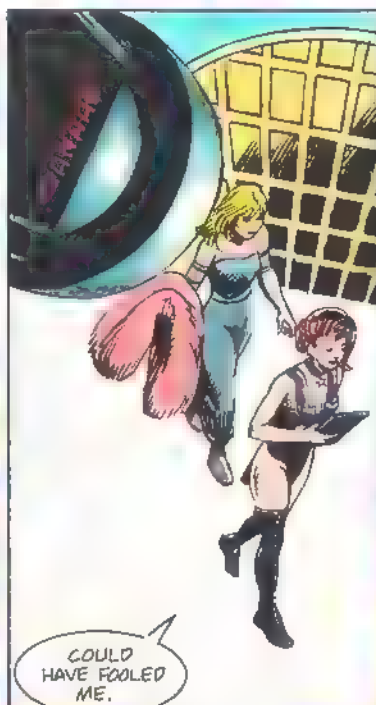
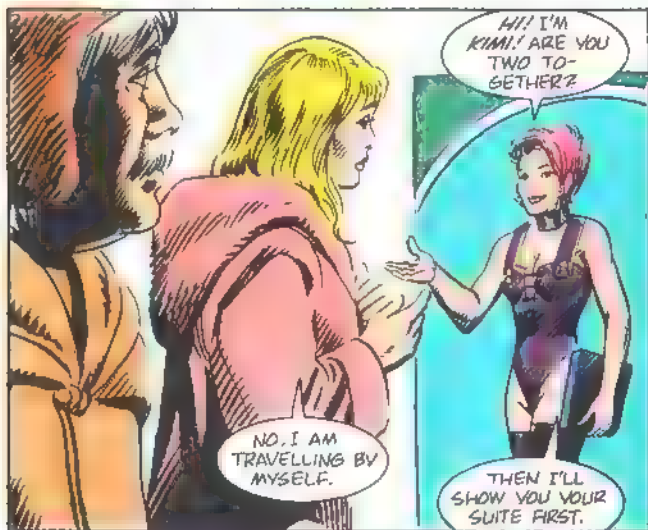


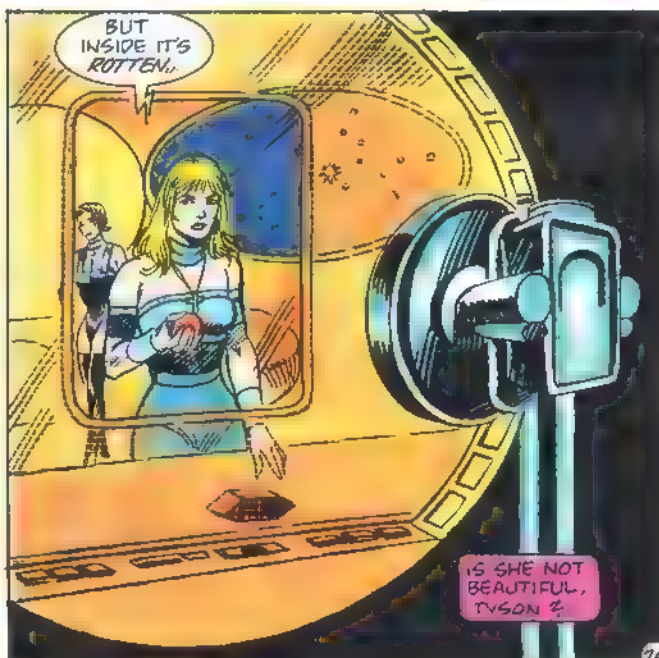
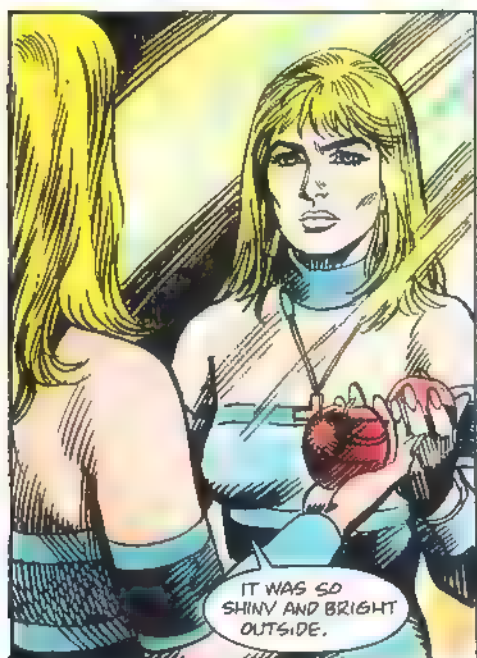
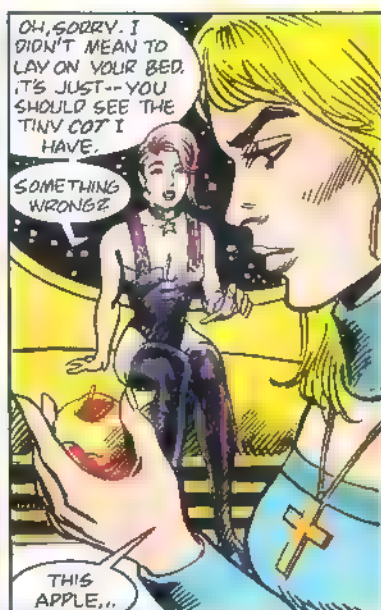
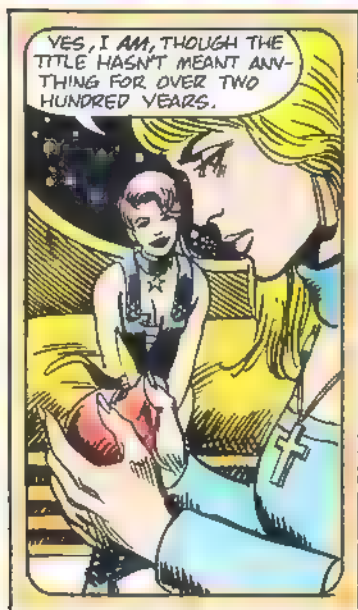
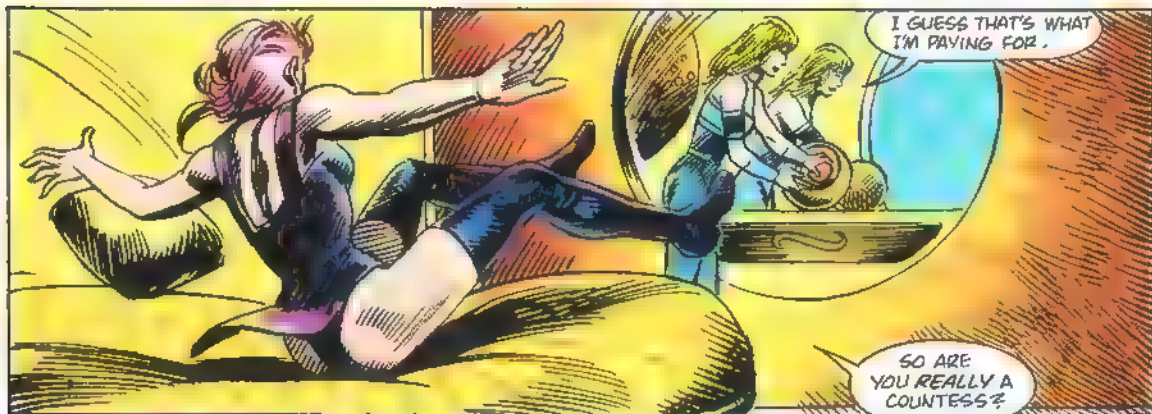
NO, NOT SATAN. BUT SURELY ONE WHO DOES HIS WORK

I WILL FIND HIM.











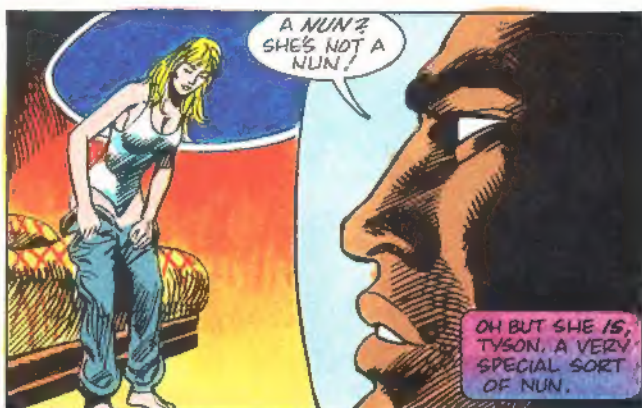
YES--QUITE BEAUTIFUL. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE INTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS, JOSEPH.

THE INTEREST IS PURELY THEORETICAL. I KNOW THAT SHE IS PHYSICALLY ATTRACTIVE MERELY THROUGH COMPARISON WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT.



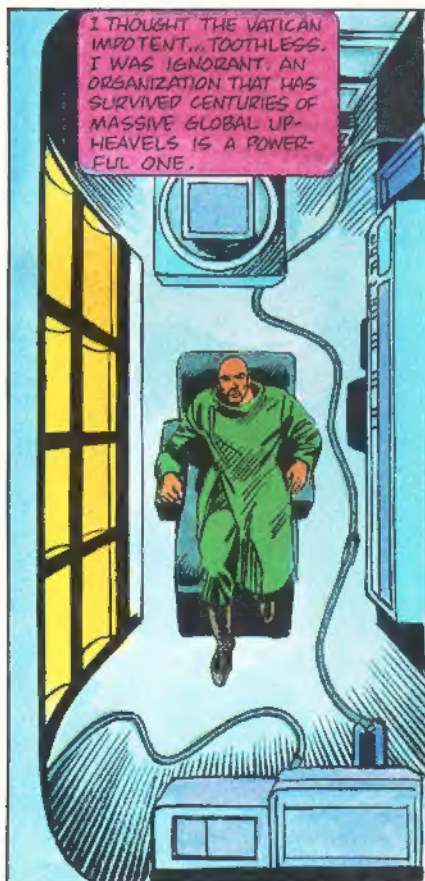
YOUR INTEREST IN HER IS NOT THEORETICAL. IS SHE A CANDIDATE FOR "ALTERATION?"

POSSIBLY, BUT PROBABLY NOT. DID YOU KNOW THAT SHE IS A NUN?

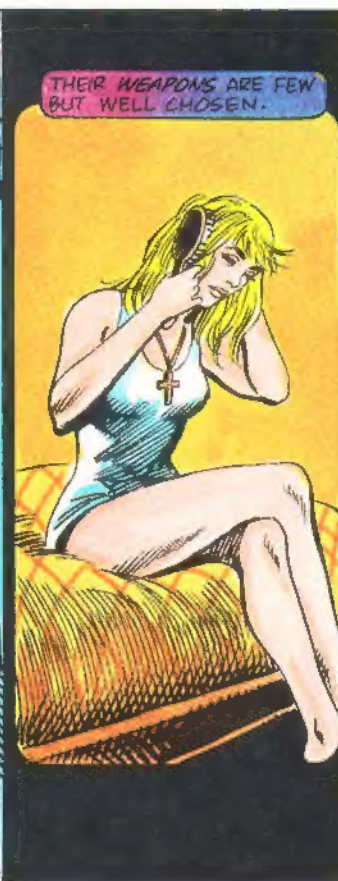


A NUN? SHE'S NOT A NUN!

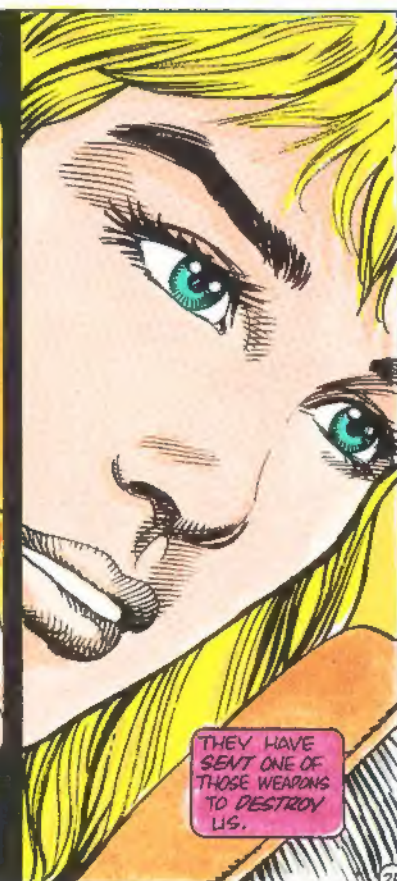
OH BUT SHE IS, TYSON. A VERY SPECIAL SORT OF NUN.



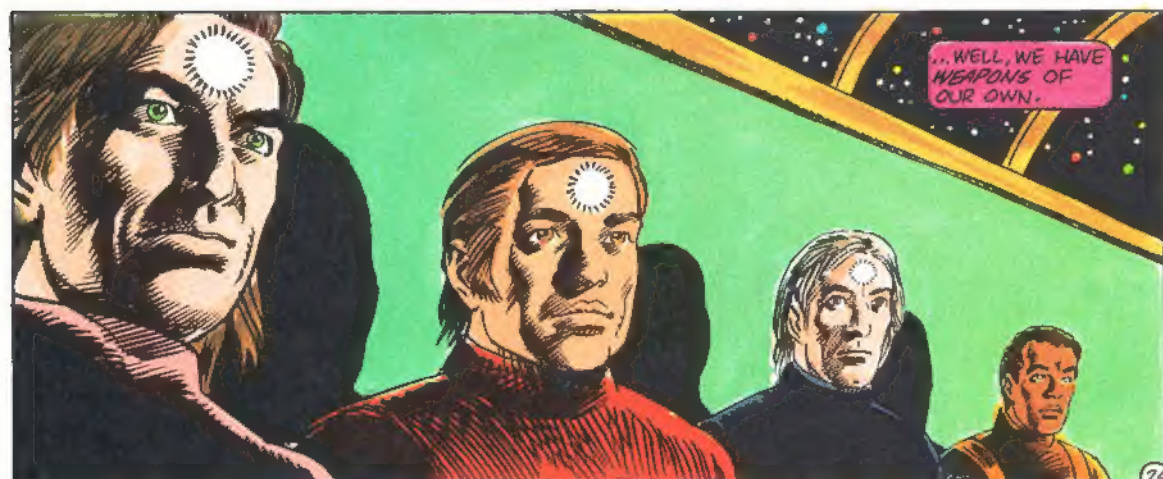
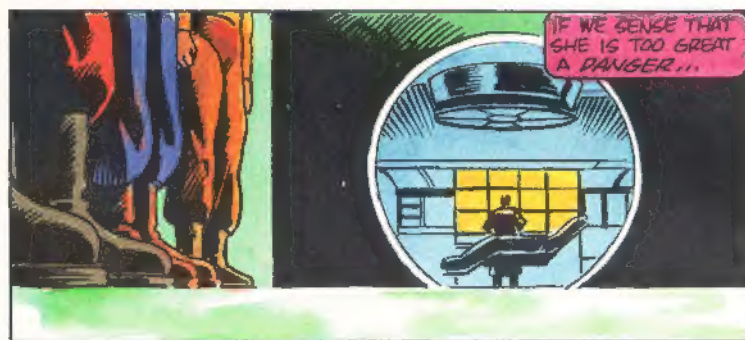
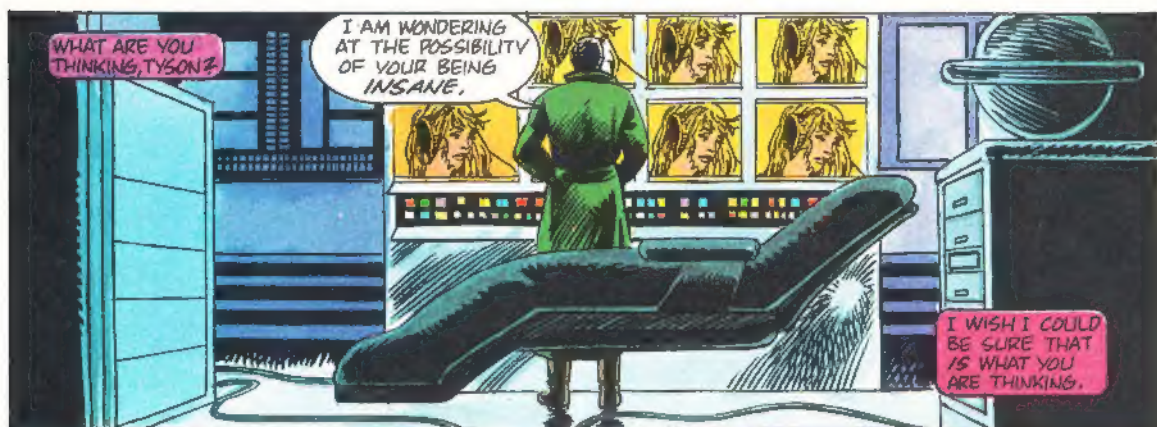
I THOUGHT THE VATICAN IMPOTENT...TOOTHLESS. I WAS IGNORANT. AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS SURVIVED CENTURIES OF MASSIVE GLOBAL UP-HEAVALS IS A POWERFUL ONE.



THEIR WEAPONS ARE FEW BUT WELL CHOSEN.



THEY HAVE SENT ONE OF THOSE WEAPONS TO DESTROY US.



THE RESURRECTORS PART TWO

The CONFESSIO^{NAL}

c/o First Comics
435 North LaSalle Chicago IL 60610

Dear Rick,

Evangeline number four was another fine tale. The world of the 23rd century is being explored and the reality of radiation sickness as well as slavery, rape, looting, murder and general mayhem is being brought home. Sister Evangeline, however, is mysterious. Does she enjoy her violent actions, do they repulse her or is she so emotionless and cold-hearted that there is no reaction at all?

Everyone tells you how great your art team is, so I won't except to say the coloring is incredible.

Also, I like the hidden messages in the indicia. It's becoming a First Comics tradition.

Charlie Harris
Tucson, AZ

Dear Charles and Judith.

I have been following Evangeline since the very first Comico issue. I've got my likes and my dislikes, but on the whole enjoy the comic. You've got me buying it and that says a lot; I generally don't buy comics.

I've got to admit right off that I did enjoy the first two Comico issues more than I have the few you've done for First. I wasn't exactly sure why for a while, and I'm still not, but I think part of it is that there was more of a sense of "futurism" in the first two issues. Guns of Mars was a masterpiece and had a great visual "feel" to it, much in the

same way that the films Outland, Bladerunner, and Aliens had a futuristic "feel" to them (the last two films even hired Syd Mead to do the designs for them to get this feel). The First stuff just doesn't have that same feel, and from a letter in # 4, I guess that I'm not the only one to notice it. I'm a historian by training, and I'm very sensitive to differences in technology. While I could let slide having a Cossack horseman using a souped-up AK-47 (such an old twentieth-century weapon was probably all he could get in the wilds of Siberia), I really got irate when the US troops in #2 were still using M-16s. I am more bothered by this because you went to such pains in Comico issue 1 to give diagrams of Evangeline's own very futuristic weapons. We are dealing with a world set several centuries in the future, and to have them still using twentieth-century vehicles and weaponry is about as irrational as having a story set in the twentieth-century written a few hundred years ago having the main characters using muskets and cutlasses. I was glad to read in the letter response that you're going to be working on this. If I may assist you, I highly recommend your examining the roleplaying game Traveller: 2300. They have a large listing of vehicles and weapons that are all futuristic, but plausible (their drawings of weapons are astounding). Pick it up and have a look at it — their futur-

ism is a lot more what I expected Evangeline to look like. Close examination of any film Syd Mead worked on (2001, Aliens, Bladerunner), I also recommend.

Your future history has also proved most tantalizing to a historian like myself. Your hints of nuclear warfare and plague make me hunger for more. I suspect you're just teasing us readers, and don't have it fully fleshed out in your own heads. If you need a little more inspiration, may I suggest the following books: *Catholic Prophecy* by Yves Dupont and *Prophecies: The Chastisement and the Purification* by Albert Herbert. Both are available from TAN Books, P.O. Box 424, Rockford IL 61105. The strange thing is that they've culled together a number of prophecies from the writings of saints and mystics dealing with — nuclear war and plague in the late twentieth-century. And the major role the Catholic Church will play in the world afterwards. Sound familiar? Evangeline may not be as fictional as you think. Anyway, check 'em out. They're thought-provoking, at least.

I know you want to keep Evangeline something of a mystery character, but do let's see more of her religious life. For the past couple of issues, she may have just been just any old celibate assassin who happens to wear a cross. Let us not forget that she is a *nun*. Let us see her in habit and praying and doing other reli-

"[The books' authors] culled together a number of prophecies... dealing with nuclear war and plague in the late twentieth century...Sound familiar? Evangeline may not be as fictional as you think."

gious things. And while I know that the whole series is about her being an enforcer, the fact is that being a nun and being a killer are two very different extremes, and contradictory ones, as well. It would be very interesting to see her struggle with reconciling this in her own mind; indeed, it could prove to become the major focus of the book (Warrior, from Britain, ran a series called Fr. Shador, Demon Stalker, about a priest who was in a similar boat, and it was fascinating to watch him struggle with his faith). Possibly you could put her into contact with, say, a Franciscan who abhors violence of any stripe, and make her question her own motives/vocation. Because basically she is not a very nice lady. Or a very nice nun. It would be nice to bring out some underlying bitterness or cynicism in her nature to account for this.

And about other characters. So far my favorite has been Jonny Six. Wonderful. I particularly liked his crabbing on the dinosaur planet ("I like space. Space is *clean*." Great stuff). However, most of the people we have seen among Evangeline's friends have been mostly of the gun-toting type. In keeping with what I have mentioned above, let's see some of Evangeline's religious friends. If she's got any. (I don't count Cardinal Szn, he seems to be more of the puppet-master type, and not entirely likeable). She must have some sisters left. I think it would be quite in char-

acter for her to seek out friendly human companionship to convince her that she is not an inhuman killing machine herself (read Heinlein's *Friday*). In particular, I would like to see her befriend an old (or young) mystic to speak to for personal or spiritual guidance, in much the same way as British spy Sidney Reilly had that Russian Orthodox mystic he used to spend time with in *Reilly, Ace of Spies* (a true story, by the way). Plus, does Evangeline have any ordinary civilian-type friends? Like the folks she was in the orphanage with, or the people in a parish she works at? Might be nice to see her leading a double life; it would bring out contrasts in her personality. I guess what I'm saying with all this is, make her a little more human.

But on the whole, I do enjoy Evangeline (I keep buying it, remember). It's nice to see comics dealing with religion in a positive way. Strangely enough, it's only been in the comics that religion's gotten a fair shake recently. Please do keep it up. And remember *Guns of Mars*. I'd like to see you folks surpass that. I know you can.

Christopher Beiting, S.F.O.
P.O. Box 1463
Kalamazoo, MI 49005

Some of your questions will be answered, at least in part, in issue 8 as Chuck Dixon recounts Evangeline's early life. Chuck will be explaining a

bit more about her training and her purpose.

As for the "hardware" in **Evangeline**, our new penciller, **John Statema**, is having a fun time playing with the look of our futuristic world. Write, tell us what you think. And thanks for the book references, I'll pass them along. I admit though, I've always been a little skittish about prophecies — they tend to become self-fulfilling (if the Vikings had had the technology they would have probably started their own Ragnarok). I hope what we do with ourselves and our world really is up to us, and not some thousand year old script.



NEXT ISSUE: New penciller **John Statema** joins **Chuck Dixon** as Evangeline searches Wonderstar for answers and finds a nightmare.

And a happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

—Laurel Fitch